

him in open scrutiny, and he understood.

"I believe—now."

She drew a deep breath of relief. "How could you, last night?" she said, in slow hesitation. "I doubted myself, afterwards. But when the sun came this morning I knew I was not mad."

"Oh," he cried, "you thought that—you feared—"

"Yes, but I know now." She stretched out a slender arm, pointing. "I was looking there," she said, "through the opening between the roof of the hotel and the houses. I was watching the fireworks at the Crystal Palace. I've drawn a line here"—she put a finger on the map—"between the street and there. The church may be somewhere along that line, but I can't be sure. I might have moved the telescope a little to one side or the other up or down."

"Then it might be anywhere on the other side of the river—anywhere among fifty square miles of houses and streets," answered Percy, studying the map.

"No," answered Margaret, decisively, "that couldn't be. The church must be nearly as far away as the Crystal Palace. The focus proves that."

"You're right," he cried, "it must have been from five to eight miles away. And another thing, Miss Lee," he continued eagerly, "If you were looking through that opening you could not see very far to the right or left—only—"

"Yes," answered Margaret, "I allowed for that." And she pointed to two lines diverging from the flat. They formed a triangle whose base was along the hills south-east of the Crystal Palace."

"By this," he said, bending over the map, "the church must be somewhere beyond Norwood, between Chislehurst and Streatham."

He picked up the photograph, examining it carefully. No photographer's name was on it, no mark save the bitter words scrawled across the face.

"There's no clue there," he cried, "but I'll find that Church, Miss Lee—"

Her face lighted up.

"This very day," he added.

A swift, impetuous movement; she stretched out both her hands; he clasped them eagerly.

"Try and forget until I come with news," he said. "I'll go now." He dropped the fingers which pressed his in silent thanks and turned, but stayed his steps as the maid came through the conservatory.

"Mrs. Gascoigne, miss."

"What?"

The maid repeated the name.

"I can't see her. Tell her, please."

Oh—
Mrs. Gascoigne had followed on the heels of the maid. She glided across the roof, one hand lifting the long, sweeping skirt, the other grasping the handle of her parasol. A portmonnaie of gold cloth and a large fan swung from side to side as she moved.

"Don't go," breathed the girl, as Percy took up his hat.

"My dear Margaret!" Mrs. Gascoigne stretched out her arms to the girl, the parasol falling with a clatter to the ground.

Margaret stepped back and out of reach of the inviting arms and bowed coldly, but she did not speak. Percy picked up the parasol of black and gold, laid it on the table and moved aside.

"How fortunate that I came," continued Mrs. Gascoigne, ignoring her reception. "Your dear father—what a shock for you, my poor child!"

The ospreys in her black hat seemed to quiver with the intensity of her sympathy. Then she raised her eyebrows and looked interrogation at



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